Appl. No. 09/450,023
Amdt. Dated August 18, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for bidding by vendors of customized goods or services, comprising steps of:

receiving a plurality of vendor records via a computer network, the vendor records corresponding to each of a plurality of vendors;

establishing a plurality of vendor pools, each respectively associated with a buyer and wherein each buyer having an associated vendor pool determines whether certain vendors will become or remain members of the vendor pool with which the buyer is associated, the vendor pools being established prior to transmitting any job data from the buyer pertaining to a specific job;

thereafter receiving a job data from at least one buyer, said job data having a buyer identifier data, and a job descriptor data which specifies a plurality of characteristics of said customized good or service for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;

in a pool of vendors, each of said vendor records having vendor identifier data representing a vendor, and vendor capability data identifying a plurality of capabilities for said vendor to provide a customized good or service, wherein the plurality of vendor records are associated with at least one vendor pool or more than one of a plurality of established vendor pools, each vendor pool being associated with a corresponding buyer and having a plurality of vendor records;

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~~receiving a job data from at least one buyer, said job data having a buyer identifier data, and a job descriptor data which specifies a plurality of characteristics of said customized good or service for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;~~

automatically comparing via a computer processor said vendor records to said job data, wherein said comparing includes comparing each of said plurality of characteristics for said customized good or service with corresponding plural capabilities for each vendor only from the pool of vendors associated with said buyer;

automatically identifying via a computer processor at least one subset from the pool of vendors as qualified for receiving an invitation for bid, based on said comparison;

selectively transmitting a solicitation to ~~only~~ selected members from the pool of vendors;

receiving bid response data from at least one of said vendors which received said solicitation, said bid response data identifying each of the vendors from which it was received and a bid price; and

outputting to said buyer <u>at least some of</u> said bid response data.

Claims 2-24 (Canceled) Claims 2-24 were previously canceled.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method for competitive bidding by vendors of customized goods or services, comprising steps of:

receiving a plurality of vendor records via a computer network, each of said vendor records having a vendor identifier data representing a vendor, and a vendor capability data identifying a plurality of capabilities of said vendor to provide a customized good or service customized goods or services;

establishing a plurality of vendor pools, each respectively associated with a buyer and wherein each buyer having an associated vendor pool determines whether certain vendors will become or remain members of the vendor pool with which the buyer is associated, the vendor pools being established prior to transmitting any job data from the buyer pertaining to a specific job;

thereafter receiving a job data from at least one buyer, said job data having a buyer identifier data, and a job descriptor data which specifies a plurality of characteristics of said customized good or service for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;

, wherein the plurality of vendor records are associated with at least one vendor pool or more than one of a plurality of established vendor pools, each vendor pool being associated with a corresponding buyer and having a plurality of vendor records ;

receiving a job data from each of said buyers, said job data having a buyer identifier data representing said buyer, and a job descriptor data representing a custom job for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;

wherein the job description data specifies a plurality of characteristics of said customized goods or services;

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automatically comparing via computer processor the plurality of characteristics of the

job descriptor data with a corresponding plurality of capabilities of the vendors only from the

pool of vendors associated with said buyer separately for each buyer providing job data;

automatically comparing via computer processor one or more additional job selection

criterion with corresponding characteristics of the vendors from the pool of vendors

associated with said buyer;

automatically identifying at least one of said vendor records as qualified for receiving

an invitation for bid, based on said comparison;

automatically selectively transmitting a solicitation to ~~only~~ selected members from the

overall pool of vendors based on the automated comparisons;

receiving a bid response data from at least one of said vendors to which said

transmitting step transmitted said solicitation, said bid response data identifying the vendor it

was received from and a bid price;

~~identifying a candidate bid from said received bid data, based on comparative values~~
~~of said bid prices;~~

~~outputting to said buyer a vendor selection data identifying said bid response data and~~
~~said candidate bid;~~

~~receiving an approval data from said buyer, said data representing one of an approval~~
~~of said vendor corresponding to said candidate bid and an approval of transmitting an order to~~
~~the vendor represented by said approval data.~~

26. Canceled.

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